





CHARLIE CHAN

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lutely harmless

No 239

Only 50 g

OTHE STORE STORE STORE STORE STORE STORE STORE

Only 50









CAN UNDER-STAND SUSPICION OF QUICK! THIS PERSON HEARD SOME DE ARGUMENT!

































END













THE JEWELRY ON DISPLAY, HAD BEEN BID ON AND SHELTON NASH'S CREATION HAD PRAWN THE HIGHEST PRICE ! BOTH THE OFFICIAL JUDGE AND THE NEW OWNER OF THE EMERALD TURTLE WERE ANXIOUS ABOUT ITS RECOVERY!

































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SO THE EMERALD BELONGED TO THE MAN WHO TOOK IT FROM THE CASE! I'M GLAD IT'S BACK IN THE RIGHT HANDS.

GOOP OFTEN APPEARS EVIL --TILL THE LIGHT OF TRUTH EN-LIGHTENS VIEWER!





























AN HOUR LATER IT WAS DARK! AND TWO FIGURES, ONE SIM, THE PORTLY, SILENTLY STEATLY STEA







SILENCE, FOOLISH ONE!



THE HOURS PASSED CHARLIE CHAN IN THE ROOM THE SAFE WAS SON IN ROOM OF CHANNING BOWLES!



TWO HOURS PASSED--AND CHARLIE CHAN
WONDERED IF NUMBER
ONE SON WAS STILL
UNDETECTED!

HUMBLE SON PERHAPS ASLEEP -- OR LOOKING OUT WINDOW AT GIRLS!



























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THERE WAS AN OPEN WINDOW LEADING OUT TO A TRELLIS AT THE SIDE OF THE MICLIONAIRE'S ESTATE --- AND A DARK FIGURE MOVED DOWN THE MAKESHIFT LADDER QUICKLY!

THIEF MOST KNOWING IN DARKNESS! PERHAPS FAMILAR WITH PREMISES!











NO SERVANTS IN HOUSE OF VAIN MAN MEANS NO MONEY.
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"PAYROLL PINCH"

"The contents of the Book of Procedures is getting fatter and fatter," remarked Al Norton' of Special Squad. "In another year we will be able to use it as a sort of bullet proof vest. When my grandpop was on the force in Chicago things were much simpler."

"Depends upon how you look at it," replied his buddy, Detective Ben Egan. "When conditions change in the way a crime is committed and the manner in which criminals operate, then in order to get the law breakers, we too must use different techniques. In the days when your grandpop pounded a beat, you didn't have automobiles. Yet today in order to flight the criminal who uses a car to escape from the scene of his crime, we use the radio to set up a road block."

"Guess you're right, Ben," admitted Al Norton as he slipped page 476A into the Book of Procedures. "The new sheet from the Bureau of Orders points out how careful we must be when we search a prisoner. The brass tube fillers for ball point pens have served as makeshift keys to open handcuffs. So from now on, when we remove a prisoner's property we have to also watch out for his fountain pen."

The phone rang and Norton answered it. No need to continue on the topic of rules.

"Chief Edward Mirkus wants us in his office at once. A payroll was snatched from a girl secretary. Come on! We don't want to keep the Chief waiting."

The police chief was proud of the two members of his Special Squad. They could handle anything from ordinary routine matter to the toughest assignment. The door to his office was opened and they walked in.

"Get over to the Winston Shirt Company, Located at 7903 East Meadows Avenue, Big building. They're on the fourth floor, You'll find Patrolman Jim Davis of the 29th Precinct there. The girl ran out of the building screaming for help, Patrolman Davis was on a foot beat. So he was the first on the scene."

Half hour later both detectives were in the private office of John Winston, head of the shirt outfit that carried his family's name. A thin girl with black hair cropped close to her head was in a chair sobbina.

"It was all my fault," she kept repeating.
"I should have at least tried to put up a fight."

"I would rather have a live secretary than a dead heroine," comforted John Winston. "We carry payroll insurance. So you did the proper thing. I am sure the police will do their best to get the thief."

Al Norton and Ben Egan identified themselves and then Ben spoke to the girl.

"Tell us how it happened and we'll get to work on the case at once."

The girl, whose name was Mari Clark, dried her eyes and then began to speak slowly as though it were an effort to recount the details of that most unpleasant event.

"There are three elevators in this building.

Two are self service and only the freight elevator has an operator. I took the second self service elevator. It was partly dark, I guess one of the electric bulbs wasn't working. Suddenly I felt something in my back. A voice told me it was a gun; it had a silencer on it. I would be killed if I screamed. Underneath my right arm in a small briefcase were the payroll envelopes. The man grabbed it from me. Then made me turn around so I didn't see him. He pushed the button to take me to the sixth floor and then another button to bring me down again. When I came back to the main floor I ran out and screamed for help. An officer came up to me and brought me back to the office."

Both detectives listened attentively and weighed every word she spoke.

"How much was in that payroll briefcase?" said Detective Al Norton to Mr. Winston.

"Almost ten thousand dollars," replied the owner of the shirt company. "It's made up at the bank. They have a special department for doing just that. I send them a check and a list two days ahead of time. Then my secretary calls for it."

"We want to look around," advised Ben Egan. "Ask Miss Clark to remain here. We may want to take her down to police headquarters for further questioning."

Both detectives went down to the lobby of the building. Patrolman Jim Davis was still there.

"Did you see anyone run away from the building?" asked Norton. "Or anyone acting suspiciously?"

"I was turning in from Broad Street, going south," replied the officer, "when I heard this dame right outside the building give a scream. The kind that could stop a lion dead in his tracks. She told me the whole story. I didn't see anyone. But that doesn't mean a thing; see anyone out the crook could have gone the other way."

"Just what did you hear from her?" demanded Detective Egan. "Maybe she forgot to tell us an important detail. So do your best to remember every word."

The officer took out a notebook from his back pocket and smiled.

"I've got to follow the Book of Procedures. Rule 35 says to put it down in writing. Guess you can read the way I scribble. Here's her whole statement."

Ben Egan read it first and then handed it to Al Norton. Both men looked at each other.

"Let's go and find the operator of the freight elevator. Why wasn't he around?" suggested Norton.

Both detectives went back into the building and located the freight elevator operator in the basement. He was an old man and constantly put his hand to his ear as they spoke.

"I run errands for the people here," he explained. "I went to the Post Office to mail a package for one of the salesmen who works for the Winston Shirt Company, Gave me a dollar to take the package. I wasn't around when that hold-up took place."

The two detectives looked at each other and Ben Egan spoke first.

"Suppose we take the girl to headquarters. We'll put her story on tape."

John Winston was shocked at the idea when the detectives mentioned it to him.

"My secretary has suffered enough. She should be sent home at once."

"Sorry," half apologized Al Norton. "But there is a Book of Procedures. Want me to auote the rules?"

"I'll go with them, Mr. Winston," interrupted Mari Clark, "I DO want to help the law."

At headquarters Miss Clark spoke into a microphone. Then she listened to the playback of what she said.

"Why did you fake the robbery?" shot Detective Norton at her.

"And who has the payroll now?" added Detective Ben Egan.

The girl started to get hysterical and sway from side to side but it didn't affect the two men in the least.

"Stop the play acting," warned Ben Egan.
"You're only making it harder for yourself.
We have the goods on you and will prove it
in a court of law."

It was like throwing ice water on her face. She stopped sobbing at once and looked like a frightened child.

"Every word you told us, you told the officer, and you did the same on the tape recording," explained Detective Egan. "That could mean only one thing. You memorized your story word for word. You weren't going to take a chance on a slip-up. Now who planned this and got you into it?"

An hour later Mari Clark decided to talk. Especially after Mr. Winston came over to headquarters.

"Phil Sheering, your best salesman, put me up to it," admitted Mari. "Said he would marry me if I got the money for him. He had lost a lot at the races. He was the one who sent the elevator operator to the Post Office. He took the briefcase and hid it in the basement."

"You poor fool," retorted her boss, "Phil Sheering just played you for a sucker."

Mari Clark cried again. Then she did some thinking. That was five hours later after the brief case had been recovered and Phil Sheering arrested.

"If nothing has been taken or lost, then they'll let me go, won't they?" she half pleaded

"First you spend a couple of years behind bars," reminded Detective Al Norton, "then they'll let you go."

- The End -

POINCE WORK IN A QUIET PRECINCT CAN BE DUIL -- NOT A PLACE WHERE REPUTATIONS ARE MADE AND SPARKUNG CAREERS ARE LANCHED! BOS CLARKE, FRESH OUT OF THE POLICE ACADEMY, MON DO INTENTION OF THICKING IN THE SPONGE AND SETTING FOR A MEDIOCRE RECORD -- HIS ENTHISIASM WAS UNAFFECTED WHEN HE SAW THE DREARY ASSIGNMENT HED GOTTEN. TO WAS A ... IT WAS A ...

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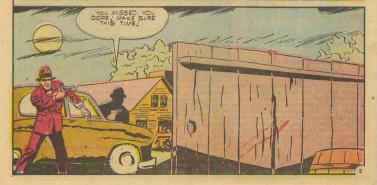
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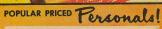
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